TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 24, 2004 LB 888, 1049

would be deducted from it--and they won't be deducted completely. They'll still be eligible for benefits. It's just that they have to look for work in the near term a little bit harder than they ordinarily would. So it's something that there's going to be a considerable amount of emotion, I think, into, and it doesn't necessarily have a good picture of the whole concept of the bill. I think that this is something that would help the whole system somewhat. I don't think this is something that's going to hinder people that really need this and that are involved and sincere about using the unemployment when they have to have it. So I think this is something that I can certainly live with. And of course, I oppose the bracket amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Vrtiska, on the bracket motion. Senator Vrtiska waives his opportunity to speak. Senator Cunningham. Is Senator Cunningham on the floor? I do not see him. We will pass over Senator Cunningham. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I think there's probably...there are merits on both sides of this argument. I think everybody pretty much knows where they stand. I believe everything that Senator Chambers has said. Senator Bourne has alluded to this in the past. price of getting this bill passed is 33 votes. That's where we're at right now. The intimidation factor doesn't work with I can tell you that. You can look in my face and tell me right now, LB 888 is out there. You tell me that it's safe. I'm not really sure I care. If I wake up tomorrow and I realize that we're not going to pass another bill this session, the birds will sing outside the window, the sun will come up. Let's make our decision... I don't know where Senator Cunningham is, but let's take the vote right now, bracket vote or a cloture vote. I'm ready. Senator Bourne has made some good arguments. There are both...there are good arguments on both sides of...I'm not playing both sides of the fence. I'm voting to cloture this bad boy, as soon as I possibly can. But the fact of the matter is, nothing is going to change in about the next hour. So I'm not really that frustrated; I'm just telling you, if not one more bill... I have not seen anything out there, one more bill,